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PSC VICE CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS NAMED TO NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS TASK FORCE

Group will present state views on federal legislation

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Jan. 12, 2005) Kentucky Public Service Commission (PSC) Vice Chairman Ellen Williams has been chosen to serve on a Telecommunications Legislative Task Force established by the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC).

Williams is one of only 24 utility regulators in the nation named by NARUC President Marilyn Showalter to the task force, which will represent state utility regulators in Washington, D.C., as Congress examines possible changes to the federal laws governing telecommunications.

NARUC's members include utility regulators from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

"I am honored to be asked to serve on this task force, which will be addressing complex and far-reaching issues affecting one of our nation's most important industries," Williams said. "I deeply appreciate the confidence President Showalter has shown in me."

Gov. Ernie Fletcher appointed Williams to the PSC on April 12, 2004. Her prior experience includes 10 years in Washington as a staff member in Congress and the White House.

"Keeping pace with the rapid changes in telecommunications is vital to Kentucky's economic development," Williams said.

"Improving telecommunications infrastructure and services, particularly access to broadband, are at the heart of Governor Fletcher's plans for growing our state's economy," Williams said. "I believe that my work on this task force will lead to information and ideas that will enable me to better serve the interests of the people of Kentucky."

The PSC is an agency within the Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet. It regulates more than 1,500 gas, water, sewer, electric and telecommunication utilities operating in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and has approximately 110 employees.

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